

REMARKS

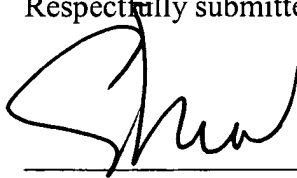
Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. Claims 12-19 have been amended to correct a typographical error in the preamble. These claims were intended to recite dependency from claim 11 and thus should have been included as part of Group III claims. No new matter has been introduced into this application as a result of this amendment.

The Examiner had imposed a five-way restriction against the claims. The Applicants provisionally elect Group IV (claims 32-34) with traverse. As the Examiner will note on further review of Group IV claims, method claim 32 recites to and is depends from composition claim 2. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction between Groups II (claims 2 and 5-10) and IV is improper and should be withdrawn. The Examiner is urged to go forward with the examination of Groups II and IV claims.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested and a favorable determination is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Miao
Registration No. 35,285

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McDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT & BERGHOFF
300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3200
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Phone: 312-913-0001
Facsimile: 312-913-0002

APPENDIX A
(MARKED-UP CLAIMS SHOWING AMENDMENT)

12. (Amended) The [method] core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein the oligonucleotides include a moiety comprising a functional group which can bind to a nanoparticle.

13. (Amended) The [method] core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein all of the salt is added to the water in a single addition.

14. (Amended) The [method] core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein the salt is added gradually over time.

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15. (Amended) The [method] core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, ammonium chloride, sodium acetate, ammonium acetate, a combination of two or more of these salts, one of these salts in a phosphate buffer, and a combination of two or more these salts in a phosphate buffer.

16. (Amended) The [method] core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 15 wherein the salt is sodium chloride in a phosphate buffer.

17. (Amended) The [method] core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 11 wherein nanoparticle-oligonucleotide conjugates are produced which have the oligonucleotides present on surface of the nanoparticles at a surface density of at least 10 picomoles/cm².

18. (Amended) The [method] core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 17 wherein the oligonucleotides are present on surface of the nanoparticles at a surface density of at least 15 picomoles/cm².

19. (Amended) The [method] core/shell nanoparticle of Claim 18 wherein the oligonucleotides are present on surface of the nanoparticles at a surface density of from about 15 picomoles/cm² to about 40 picomoles/cm².
